



May 16, 2016

Students for Sensible Drug Policy at U-M Law School Supports HB 5649 & HB 5650

Dear Legislators:

As students at the University of Michigan Law School, School of Public Policy, and School of Public Health, we urge you to enact the life-saving Good Samaritan Expansion (HB 5649-5650).

When someone in America overdoses, a call for help occurs less than 50% of the time. The most common reason for not seeking help is fear of repercussion from law enforcement. With drug overdose in Michigan at epidemic levels, HB 5649-5650 should be enacted as quickly as possible to prevent further unnecessary death.

Students for Sensible Drug Policy is made up of students around the world concerned with combatting drug abuse as a public health instead of a criminal justice issue. We understand the harms that drugs inflict on our communities, especially on students and young people. Good Samaritan laws are an example of a critical public health response to our nation's drug crisis.

Central Student Government for U-M recently *unanimously* passed our resolution calling for Good Samaritan expansion for U-M and the state. That resolution is attached. We are working with the Board of Regents to update University policy to mirror that of HB 5649-5650.

Michigan will join the current practice of over 32 states when it passes this life-saving law. The bipartisan legislation sponsored by Reps. Pscholka and Singh as written best effectuates the goals of a Good Samaritan law. Drug use is a serious threat to students and youth; those dying are our friends, brothers, sisters, sons and daughters. We must encourage them to call for help in emergencies if we wish to reverse this trend of untimely overdose deaths.

Thank you for your support on this issue. Any questions you may have about Good Samaritan laws or drug policy in general are warmly welcomed.

Sincerely,

Law Students for Sensible Drug Policy (LSSDP) at the University of Michigan

lssdpboard@umich.edu

ssdp.org